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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 97 million eggs during December, unchanged from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 75 million table eggs and 22 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,270,000 birds, down 5 percent from 4,483,000 a year ago. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,272 eggs, compared with 2,164 in 2009.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.90 billion during December 2010, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.83 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2010 averaged 341 million, up 1 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,313 eggs, up slightly from December 2009.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION DECREASES

During the month of December, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 19.9 million chicks, down 2 percent from last year's 20.4 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2010 totaled 786 million, up 1 percent from December 2009. Eggs in incubators totaled 635 million on January 1, 2011, up slightly from a year earlier.